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Choice Poetry.

A LYRIC.

[By GERALD GRIFFIN, more famous as the author of "The Collegians," and other productions of extraordinary genius. His poetry is scarcely known to English readers, but much of it has great merit.]

Gill! an chree,
Sit down by me,
W e now are join'd and ne'er shall sever,
This hearth's our own,
Our hearts are one,
And peace is sure forever.

When I was poor
Your father's door
Was closed against your constant lover;
With care and pain
I tried in vain
My fortunes to recover;
And I, to other lands I'd roam
Where fate may guide my bark on shore!
I said, farewell, my own old home!
And I said farewell to thee, love!
Sing Gill ma cree, &c.

I might have said—
My comrades said,
A belter's right was never given
True hearts to crave,
And pearls—little Joseph holding Fanny in his lap, with Ellen clinging to his neck,—at the sound of their father's voice, we, nevertheless brave sisters stole up and silently gather-ed around him, the youngest making an effort to climb upon his knee. The Major gently lifted her into his lap, parted the disordered curls from her childish brow, kissed her, and caused her to hit beaten. He then placed her on one knee, took little Ellen upon the other, and drew little Joseph between them. Then turning each affectionately, he looked his hands behind them, and held them together in a long, silent embrace—for two silent feeling their precious arms about his neck, and the boy clasping his body.

"Now, my dear children," he said, at length, in a tone of almost unnatural calmness, "you must try and eat some supper, and let Aunt Chloe put you to bed."

"I don't want to eat," sobbed Joseph.

"I don't feel hungry, papa," whined Ellen.

"Won't dear mamma eat, too?" asked little Fanny.

"No," said her father, in a tremulous voice; "poor mamma has gone where she will not eat."

"Jesy says at how she won't never kiss me again, neither—but she will, won't she, papa?"

"No, my dear, she will never kiss you, for she is dead."

"I don't know what dead is, papa," she said, after a thoughtful pause, while Joseph and Ellen began to sob anew.

"Dead!" murmured the almost heart-broken parent: "would to Heaven it were all!"

"But what is dead, papa?" persisted Fanny.

"Why, it is when one has stopped seeing, and talking, and breathing, my child."

"Well, mamma looked the little one, "if mamma don't never move again, how's she going to get off the bed?"

"We shall take her off, and dig a hole, and put her into the ground, and cover her up there."

"With the cold dirt, papa?"

"Yes!" gasped Hargrave, who began to feel himself overcome by grief no longer replied to an inquisitor whose every question was a rack to his heart. "Now, children, you must eat your supper and go to bed, for I am tired

pened the men who had engaged to favor our design to pandemonium. They no doubt had to succumb, and, I suppose, if not subjected to other penalties,

After this we were separated from the men, and, with a strong guard, marched off to the jail. Here we were locked up in a large room, with a fire-place in it, and a window looking out upon the front yard, and had to sit or lie down on the floor. Our guard was relieved every two hours, and the new one would come with the regular knocking of the officer, to relieve high in rank and talkative. Some of them would converse with us, and tell us the news of our various personal friends. The principal subject of conversation was where we were stationed. They never ceased from the friendly inquiry that they entertained in coming our rooms to be paid, the fate of the prisoners who were confined in the Libby.

We were ordered to fling me at the blessed tip of Heaven and our own limbs, after six months of silence and solitude. Colonel Corcoran had been let in for dinner. Our beards and hair had grown to a great length. Our whole appearance was so altered that we had not suddenly encounter ourselves before our most intimate friends, they would have known us. Finding the whole line of officers assembled to meet the long lost, the cause of indignation, refused to furnish the cause of rejoicing, and gazed upon us in our country. His dismay and mystery proved equally powerful. We unanimously delighted to be considered "Yankees."

Our tenderness towards us never was again to be intimated to us, and every one treated us with the utmost politeness and consideration.

Our destination was at Richmond, Virginia, and in the "conservative" writers, would have imagined with me, as they have with me, that, though, truth to tell, I knew not why all silence, none should be made for the publication of Cromwell's enemies, and none for those of his friends. George Godfrey Cunningham, in his "History of England in the Time of England," says, "after speaking of the publication of the Cromwell's enemies, of the Cromwell's friends, of which was to prompt to tyrannicide, says: "After these alarms, the Protector will please give his name of the Public Good," etc.

Knightley says: "To secure himself against the secret attempts of his enemies, he adopted various precautions. He drove at full speed, he could filled with attendants and surrounded by guards, and he always returned by a different way from that which he had originally taken. He permanently inspected the night-watch of the palace."

Sir James Mackintosh quotes passages like the above, discrediting, but not disproving them, by saying that they are "they read like fiction," and remarking that they are not mentioned by Thurloe. But he admits the fact of the Lord Protector's going secretly sometimes, proved by the accidental discharge of a pistol, when he was thrown from his carriage in Hyde Park, some two or three years before his death. Even Carlyle admits the fact of his wearing armor, if not secret, for defence against treachery. I could quote passages from several other histories, confirming the fact of his secret precautions, but perhaps the best proof of its truth is presumptive evidence, afforded by the character of the man, and the circumstances under which he sounded him in his last days. I yield to none in hearty admiration of the character of Cromwell, for all the grand and heroic qualities of Crom-well; but to me, there were not alone faults nor, but imperfections, in gilding or mounting over that stern and craggy character by a poetic or romantic halo. Let it stand in bare outline, bold rock, thrown upward by the convulsions of the times, for the dissolved vessel of integrity to dash its wreck itself against. But upon Cromwell's single life, as having been performed the drum of all integrity, and pronounced with the destinies of whole races. His daily blows for freedom resounded through the world, and shook the thrones of its most ancient and powerful despotisms with strange, prophetic shocks. I am almost inclined to believe, with the Puritans, that, at the first, God's Spirit was on the rose, inspiring his bold work, and directly influencing his acts; and it is most reluctantly I believe that, at the last, he was left to himself to err, and fall, and, if not wholly recreant to the high purposes, to be so far recalled, guilty of making it more and more subservient to his arrogant and insatiable ambition. I believe that, finally, he lost the inspiration of a large portion of the great and noble feelings of Providence, until the fiery fascination which, like a sword of flame, had once cleft a path of deliverance for freedom and the people, was only employed in defending him against the attacks of his own conscience.

Walter Savage Landor, whose sturdy republicanism no one can doubt, says: "It is, Cromwell, then, sincere and pure? Certainly not; but he began in sincerity; and he believed to the last that every occasion of power was an especial manifestation of God's mercy. Fanaticism, and fanaticism alone, can make a man believe this. Fanaticism alone, can make a man believe this. Power made him less pious, but more confident. God had taken him by the hand at first, and had now let him walk by himself. To show how *he* could work, by *him*. Religion, in the sense of humility, is more arbitrary, more intolerant and more cruel than monarchy; and the sordid arrogance of Presbyterianism succeeded to the splendid tyranny of Episcopacy."

I do not wholly endorse Mr. Landor's terrible concluding sentence—that Cromwell made Christ's earlier services to his country, he lived a hypocrite and died a tyrant." I think it a manifestation fact, that, in his last days, he was a miserable and remorseful man. I do not accept him in fiction sufficiently to be more than flood upon his skirts, or reeking from his hands, or that the accusing fiend came up against him—that even the beautiful and melancholy face of the first Charles rose before him, in lonely night watches. But I think we can only better guilt-stains more appalling to his night than human blood, and that he was pursued and haunted by a presence more terrible than any spectral visions, the memory of high and holy things, which he had once loved and cherished, and the sudden promises and principles barely falsified. But it was that peopled the solitude of his chamber with the ghosts of lost opportunities for good, and made the hushed air of midnight murmur with reproaches, and the gloom of his lonely vigils. This frowned on him in the darkened form of his old friends—subdued him from the mournful eyes of the saintly Vane, and sighed through the dying lips of his best beloved daughter.

The danger of assassination was not imaginary, but real. Cromwell was encompassed with secret enemies—dangers—treachery—death—and it is the impeachment of his courage to say, that he was prepared for them, precisely caution, and watchful against it. Others have defended him on the extraordinary precautions he took—on the ground that his life-was infinitely valuable not his country, in the great of his national liberty—but I say, emphatically for himself, also, he dreaded death. Having put out of God's hands, he shrank from entering the valley of shadows himself, and walked it not grave alone. But we are left to trust that Landor's merciful acceptance of Cromwell in that valley before him, as he advanced. Another has interposed, no longer to mediate, but wards spoke; it not the joy of perfect, unfearing love, but the humility and trembling hope of Christian resignation.

Had my essay been intended for newspaper comment, I might not have thus noticed any charge made against it. But intending to republish it, with other articles, in a more permanent form, I desire if I have made a mistake, and a misstatement, to be set right now. For myself, I have no interest in the matter but that of gratefully; though I must acknowledge a preference that to be made *courteously*, if it is all the same to my critics. As ever, truly yours,

GRACE GREENWOOD.

—Home Journal.

☞ A minister, while preparing his next sermon, was interrupted by a servant who came to ask how he had written, and, as a matter of course, to order some portions which on examination, seemed to him unnecessarily extravagant. While doing so, he was accosted by his little son, who asked about the meaning of eggs. "Father, does God tell you what to preach?" "Certainly, my child." "Then what makes you scratch it out?"

☞ The New Bedford Standard says there is a man in Rochester who sells flour at $10 a barrel. Another man in Rochester sells flour for a hundred dollars a barrel. Both of these men are bankrupt. The first because he is not enough to sell it, and the second because he will not sell enough to be a merchant. The memory of such a man ought to be embalmed in the hearts of the poor.

☞ The Washington correspondent of the New York Times suggests that Mr. Gadsden's new territory, to which the forcible name of Arizonia has been given, be called Fagedaia, as it is apparently the fag end of creation.

☞ "Sister," cautiously inquires Jemima, pushed bloc of beautiful flowers, that have been wither-ed and dried between sheets of blotting paper —French.

Miscellaneous.

OLIVER CROMWELL.

A friend has called my attention to the following editorial paragraph in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, of the 19th inst.:

"Gerrit Smith[sic], in his contribution to the (Orrel Cromwell's Head,' revives an exploded opinion in his letter reads, which Cromwell, after his death, was not buried in Westminster Abbey.

I will not dwell upon the unmerited charge of hypocrisy and misstatement is made, but proceed to consider the charge itself.

Mr. Smith says: "The Protector's head, after the Restoration, was stuck upon a pole on the top of the Hall of Oriel Coll[illegible]." I find no allusion to this head myself or by others, especially upon which I do not remember to have seen it mentioned. I have, however, in running over many of the Cromwell's enemies, found some of these left-handed compliments to Cromwell—neither do I most assuredly.

Since your charge of "reviving exploded nonsense" has resulted me, I have consulted such authorities as I have access to, but I have not yet come upon the exploded. Will you be so kind as to tell me where it took place?

I suppose that Hume, Clarendon, and such like conservative writers, would have indulged with pleasure, as they have with delight, in the story—and, no doubt, would have done so, if they had known of it. But I am not aware that they have ever referred to it. Carlyle, the latest Cromwellian writer, would have mentioned it, I think, if he had met with it. Forster is very strong and explicit on the point of the Lord Protector's dread of assassination in his last days—quotes Lingard, and supposes no doubt of the truth of his statement, yet does not allude to this head on the outer pinnacle of Westminster—Cromwell's head

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1854.

Congressional News

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

On the 13th, the Senate resumed and took a bitter from Mr. Jackson, requesting Mr. Seligh to provide Con gress with printing paper.

Mr. Everett presented the petition of fourteen hundred Philadelphia merchants, praying for a reduction of postage. Referred.

Mr. Houston said, that though not myself, he had received a petition from Texas, praying for the establishment of a mail route from Austin to Santa Fe. While he would do this, he was no supporter of the Pacific railroad project. He was in favor of a road, but believed that the rights of the Indians in the country through which it passed should be first extinguished. He would not vote for the bill reported from the Committee of the Territory of Nebraska, because it contained the provision for the repeal of slavery.

Mr. Dodge, of Iowa, some purport were presented from citizens of Dubuque, Muscatine, Davenport, Keokuk, Indiana, and Ohio.

Mr. Bright presented the memorial of citizens of Indiana, asking Congress for laws to maintain and encourage the Navy. He also presented a petition of the United States for the debts of Texas.

Mr. Dodge, of Wisconsin, presented a petition from sundry citizens of Wisconsin, praying for the passage of the War with Mexico. Adopted.

Mr. Sebastian, of Arkansas, introduced bills granting land to Arkansas for railroads.

The Nebraska Bill was then taken up.

Mr. Weller said, that if any person supposed that he was in favor of the bill as it now stood, he was very much mistaken. He was opposed to the bill in its present shape. He was opposed to the principle of the compromises of 1850, and to the application of the principle to the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas. He would not vote for the bill with such a principle, and if the Senate would strike out the principle, he would vote for the bill. In voting for them he had never supposed that Senator Seward would misconstrue between them and the Fugitive Slave law. He had

Selected Poetry.

A CHURCH IN THE AIR.

There stands a church on the land of dreams,
Where the sunlight of memory lies;
A church of vanishing spires,
Of windows that reflect the rose of days gone by,
And stained glass that is ever changing
Like the colors of the dawn
Or the sunset clouds.

And when the hours are given out,
"White, white, only white,"
I wandered a holy city in all
Reed, formed, built for grace.
No stone but hewn with one whose value
No money were set down,
No number dared of earthly mould
To paper her would be seen.
And yet I saw not that the deed
Required a single grace.
Rather that the creation had
Been finished in a moment.

Round on the maiden's face,
And while I pondered in my mind,
How such a thing could be,
The answer came, as I stood to sing
Some time were melody.

Gladly I swoon with modern me
Of the storm the organ's tone,
Then simple Christians smell the praise
Of God by voice alone.
And hark! in unknown tongues
The nations, at baptism,
Are set in solemn tones of praise,
And sung in open style.

And yet the music of that choir
Might pleasure man to hear,
Though nothing in the words I found
To please a critic's ear.
For scattered joined in ringing tones
With those of differing age,
And trill, and pour, and roll, and peal
In the best, truest stage.

I listened and my thoughts restored
To such a heavenly choir
As my church, who sought most
To praise the Lord the higher!
And well, thought I, the church of God
The modern might spare
Untaught for every kind was formed—
For every kind to hear!

And all, in spirit rooted to join,
May mind I well believe,
For Christ, and not the manner,
Who first appointed them.
In words of charity and love
Did the whole world instruct,
Unchanging doctrines of grace
That modern Christian grace.

And little did I care to know
If Old the School or New
From which the end of such a man
Had taken his rise and view.
No brother none could well mistake
The very one impart
Lessons of wisdom that can guide
A sinful human heart.

Yet now that former prayer was o'er,
The benediction asked,
And silently descended the quiet throng
The congregation passed.
Slowly, as one might turn his back
From the portal of a tomb,
After a taste of angel's food,
Then fain must see it gone.

And now kind greetings were exchanged,
With many a friendly word,
And Christian met, as Christians should
Who never can remember Lord
One heart, one mind, one action will
Succeed to prepare the vision,
As friend to friend in freedom told
The welfare of his soul.

Strange though it seem, no single word
Of Church name fell—*Did say*,
Of "politics," of "rise in riches,"
Or gossip of the day,
Not only did they "size up shop,"
And melt like ice—not they.
They caused the boy on worldly thoughts,
Till holy time was o'er.

The sermon, while a group discussed,
I listened in sooner,
And memorized at the words they used,
When speaking to in prayer.
They did not call it "grace" or "dogs,"
Impressions," "unity," "exact,"
Or "death these ears" they had a man
After the people's heart.

But whispered low, with mentioned eyes,
"How practice was the word!
How full of hope the preacher!
Their strengthened souls had heard.
And memory's cords were stirred to talk
A sap in church again.

—*Lucy Ann*

Original Sketches.

SKETCHES BY FANNY FERN.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.

"Modern improvements!" I wonder where they are? Perhaps it is the fashionable cloaks, that take leave of their shivering owners at the hips; or the long skirts, where scrubby trains every passing pedestrian is treading in the sidewalk or the Lilliputian bonnets, that never a strip in shop-door can keep within hailing distance of the head; or the darning cloaters, through which the warm wind plays around its white pin; or the brass-eyed, cotton-backed gaiters, which some little, dimply fondoine has inadvertently stuck her fancy shoe into, and rendered her tall sisters hideous; or the gauffe, furious-looking bonnets, in which the owners' eyes are extinguished, and their chins stuck in a parchment; or, perhaps, it is the clothes, of such colossal dimensions, that the clergymen must have candles at noonday, and where the congregation are forbidden to express their devotion by singing, for fear of bursting the buttrills and cuirass of some scientific stage manmichael; or perhaps it is the brass concrevance with which Young America jostles some grey-headed Widow; perhaps the convenience, fashion means of the "fair sex generalized woman;" perhaps its be manly gaunt, whose magnificence of nose knows never dims the bright eyes of defenceless innocence with traces of anguish; perhaps its the schools where a superficial show of brilliancy at its fabulous days, is considered the no plus ultra of teaching; perhaps its the time-serving clergymen, whose tongue is fostered by a genteel clique; perhaps its the lawyers who lie—under a mistaken notion of "for a friend;" whom I saw yesterday at Aunt Jerusha's sick room, a little child with lots of fun, and running rates, and lily-white hands, and perfumed handkerchief. I smiled an inquiry what child produce, as I waited to see him. I wanted to ask him how long it would take him to earn her, and if he possessed pills to purchase. Mistress of plasters, oat-meal to barley-gruel, wine-whey to sassafras, cream-cast to dorion, and a vo ery little thing, you know. He stared at me over his dickey, as if I had been an unrecognized Lamgrave; then he rolled up to Aunty, and put open his mouth, and said—"hemph"—in Latin. Then he crossed his legs, and rolled up the whites of his eyes at the wall, as if he expected some Kensington head-writing on the wall to enlighten him as to the cause of Aunt Jerusha's complaint. Then, he drew from his pocket a ten with a whole script of tiny bottles; and unscrewing two of these he set [illegible] a little white powder in a tumbler, and poured on it a certain quantity of water, and then he stirred it with a teaspoon, and then he poured it into a wine-glass, and then he poured it back into the tumbler, and then he stirred it again, and then he poured it into the